How to receive DD Free Dish?

Receive system of DD Free Dish contains three units: 1) One small sized Dish Antenna along with LNBF 2) Indoor Set-Top-Box (STB) also known as IRD (Integrated Receiver Decoder) and 3) Handy Remote control unit for STB. Dish Antenna installed at the roof top or on wall facing clear south receives the signal from satellite and transmits it to the indoor Set top box unit. The set top box further decodes the different TV channels from the DTH bouquet and feeds it to the TV set for viewing.

The complete DD Free Dish DTH system (Dish Antenna, Set Top Box and Remote control unit) is a one-time purchase from the open market with a nominal cost. There is absolutely no further recurring expenditure in terms of monthly subscription etc. for viewing DD Free Dish Channels.

Doordarshan has recently empanelled eleven Indian Set Top Box (STB) manufacturers who will manufacture, sell and install DD Free Dish STBs in India.

Installation of the Receive System of DD Free Dish:

The viewers may contact empanelled DD Free Dish STB manufacturers for any help in buying or installing the DD Free Dish STB.

Tuning of old DD Free Dish STB:

Following is the suggestive tuning procedure of STB for receiving the TV Channels.

1. Satellite Name:

a) Go to Installation menu or setup Programme from remote.
b) Select Satellite Edit menu.
c) Select Add New Satellite menu
d) Select Sat Name Edit menu.
e) Enter Satellite Name as GSAT-15.
f) Enter Satellite Longitude as 93.5° E
g) Press Exit

2. LNB Configuration

a) Go to LNB Configuration menu. Ensure that satellite selected is GSAT-15 only.
b) Set LNB Types as Universal.
c) Set LNB Power on.
d) Press Exit

3. Transport streams of Transponder (TP) Edit:

a) Go to Transponder Edit menu. Ensure that satellite selected is GSAT-15.
b) Select Add New TP menu.
c) Enter TP Frequency as 11090 MHz

d) Select Symbol rate as 29500 Ksps.
e) Select Polarization as Vertical.
f) '22K' OFF*
g) 'Disc. Equal'. Off
h) Select Scan as FTA.
i) Press OK.

After filling the above values go to 'Search'

Press 'OK'
The new 16 TV and 06 Radio services will be displayed. Similarly add all other four Transport streams (TPs) by entering respective frequencies, symbol rate and polarization as given in Table above

Note: - The above-mentioned steps may be in different order in some of the STBs.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q. 1 What is DD Free Dish?

Ans. DD Free Dish is India's first and one and only Free-to-Air (FTA) Direct-To-Home (DTH) Service from Doordarshan.

Q. 2 What is Free-to-Air (FTA) DTH?

Ans. Normally all over the world DTH operators charge activation charges as well as monthly subscription charges depending upon the channels/Bouquet to be viewed by subscriber. DD Free Dish is a unique FTA DTH platform in which the subscriber is not charged any activation and monthly subscription charges.

Q. 3 When was the DD Free Dish service started?

Ans.DD Free Dish is an approved scheme of the Government of India being implanted through Prasar Bharati. The Cabinet approval of the scheme was obtained on 19.11.2003 for setting up a 30 channel Ku- band distribution system. Subsequently approvals of the Government were obtained from time to time to expand its capacity. DD Free Dish service, earlier known as DD Direct Plus was formally inaugurated by Honorable Prime Minister of India on 16.12.2014 with a bouquet of 33 TV channels. Its present capacity is 104 SDTV channels and 40 Radio channels.

Q.4 What is the reach of DD Free Dish?

Ans. DD Free Dish in Ku-Band is available throughout the country except in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. It reaches even to those places where Terrestrial or cable TV is not available like border, remote & tribal areas.

A separate 10 channel DTH service in C-Band has been provided by Doordarshan exclusively for Andaman & Nicobar Islands, which is also Free- To-Air.

As per market estimates, its reach is 2.20 Crore Households and is expected to become about 4.60 Crore in next 2-3 years.

Q.5 What are the advantages of DD Free Dish over cable connection?

Ans. DD Free Dish ensures excellent Picture Quality for all the channels in the bouquet. There is no intermediary as one gets the signals directly from the broadcasters. There are no recurring charges to be paid by subscribers to view any of the programs. Unlike other private DTH operators, Doordarshan is not charging any monthly subscription fee from the viewers for complete bouquet of the DD Free Dish channels It requires only a small one time investment, not more than Rs. 2000/- depending on the type of Set-Top-Box, in purchasing of Dish Receive System containing Set-Top-Box, RF cable and small sized Dish Antenna.

Q. 6 Will DD Free Dish signal be available in remote villages, where no TV tower is installed?

Ans. Yes, the DD Free Dish signal is made available through satellite and doesn't require any tower or cable for its distribution.

Q. 7 What is the composition of DD Free Dish bouquet?

Ans. Bouquet of DD Free Dish is a fantastic combination of Doordarshan's TV channels, Parliamentary channels, Private TV Channels of movies, news, sports and general entertainment etc. and Radio channels of All India Radio. Complete list is available on the Link: DD Free Dish Channel List.

Q. 8 How private TV channels are placed on DD Free Dish?

Ans. Doordarshan does not include private satellite channels on DD Free Dish by its choice. Available slots of DD free Dish are allotted to private TV channels through a competitive and transparent process as per guidelines finalized by Prasar Bharti.

All private free-to-air TV channels may participate in the allotment process and get a slot allotted for carrying the channel on DD Free Dish. The allotment is done for one year at a time.

Q. 9 Does Doordarshan charge any monthly Subscription Fee from viewers?

Ans. No subscription fee is charged by Doordarshan from viewers for receiving complete bouquet of the DD Free Dish channels. The service is totally free.

Q. 10 Is Doordarshan marketing/selling/appointing dealers for the Receive Equipment?

Ans. Doordarshan itself does not sell or market the receive system of DD free Dish. It is available in the open market and can be purchased from any TV Dealer.

However, Doordarshan has recently empanelled11 Set-Top-Box manufacturers for selling receive equipment in India.

Q. 11 What are the details of Set-Top-Box manufacturers empanelled by Doordarshan?

Ans. At present 11 STB manufacturers have been empanelled. Their details are as below:

Sr. No.	Name of Company	Address of Company	Contact person Name and mobile	e-mail
1	M/s BGM Holding company	39/2/7 & 8, SITE-4, SDO-2, Sahibabad, Ghazibad, UP - 201010	Sh. Balvinder Singh 9560198998	balvinder@BGMHolding.com
2	M/s K.M.T.S Engineering Pvt. Ltd.	WZ-428A/1, Club Road, Nariana Vihar New Delhi-110028	Sh. Deepak Gupta 9811362911	Sales@KMTSE.com
3	M/s Millenium Technologies	A-76 First Floor, Front Protion, Nariana Industrial Area, New Delhi-110028	Sh. Amarjeet Singh 9818146981	milleniumtechnologies76@gmail.com
4	M/s Modern Communication and Boradcast System Pvt. Ltd.	B-138/139,GIDC Electronics Estae, Sector-25, Gandhi Nagar-382024, India	Sh. G.C. Jain 9727724123	gcjain@mcbsintl.com
5	M/s Velankani Electronics Pvt. Ltd.	43 Electronics City Hosur Road Bangalore-560100 India	S K Ramakrishnaiah 9880002946 9900199083	skramki@valankanigroup.com
6	M/s BECIL	14-B Ring Road, Indraprasth Estate, New Delhi-110001	Sh. Mazhar Umer 8800338017	mazhar.umer@becil.com
7	M/s Exza Infosystem Pvt. Ltd.	H-803 Kumar Sansar Sr. No 37 & 38 Near Welcome Hall, Kondhwa Khurd, Pune-411048, Maharashtra	Sh. Joy Kokkat 9673494141	joy.kokkat@exzainfo.com
8	M/s Catvision Limited	F-87 , UPSIDC Indesturial area, Selaqui, Dehradun - 248197, Utrakhand , India	Sh. Rajesh Kukreja 9810298670	catvision@catvisionindia.com

9	M/s The Creative Advertiser	A-496, Shastri Nagar, New Delhi-110052	Sh. Sanjeev Arora 9250858944	creativead31@yahoo.com
10	M/s STB Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	707, Modern Industrial Estate, Part A, Bahadurgarh , Harayana-124507	Sh. Micky Alawadhi 9810315051	micky@willettcable.com
11	M/s Laxmi Remote India Pvt Ltd	B-201 Phase-II Noida UP - 201305	Ms. Arvinder Kaur 9990059888	arvinder@lripl.com

Q. 12 What is the cost of complete Receive Equipment of DD Free Dish?

Ans. The price of a complete Receive System consisting of STB, Dish, RF Cable including installation will be less than Rs.2000/-.

Q. 13 What is iCAS?

Ans. iCAS is an Indian Conditional Access System, which is an initiative of Government of India in line with Make in India and Digital India. The introduction of iCAS will make DD Free Dish an addressable system. Viewers will have to register with DD Free Dish on getting iCAS enabled Set-Top-Box. However, the DD Free Dish platform will remain 'Free to Air' and viewer will not be required to pay monthly or annual subscription.

Q. 14 What are advantages of iCAS?

Ans. Presently most of the STBs are imported and are not locally manufactured. The introduction of iCAS will help in standardization of Set-Top-Boxes and encourage quality Set-Top-Box manufacturing in India. Also, DD Free Dish will become addressable system and exact number of registered viewers of DD Free Dish will be available with Doordarshan.However, the DD Free Dish platform will remain 'Free to Air' and viewer will not be required to pay monthly or annual subscription.

DD Plans to convert its MPEG-2 channels to MPEG-4 in phased manner in future. With the new iCAS STB all such channels will be received. However, the old STB will not receive these channels.

Q. 15 Will the existing Set-Top-Boxes will receive new iCAS enabled channels?

Ans. With old Set-top-Box, viewers will continue to get 80 TV channels. However for getting additional 24 channels, viewers will require iCAS enabled Set-top-Box. So the new iCAS enabled Set-top-Box will be capable of receiving 104 TV channels and the channels in future up gradation.

Q.16 Will it be possible to receive all channels after installation of Dish & STB?

Ans. Yes, all channels available in the bouquet of DD Free Dish can be received once STB and Dish (receive equipment) is installed.

Q. 17 What are the items of receive equipment of DD Free Dish?

Ans. The receive equipment of DD free Dish contains following equipment/accessories:

i) Dish Antenna

ii) Set-Top-Box with remote

iii) RF Cable (to connect Set-Top-Box and Dish Antenna)

Q. 18 If there are more than one TV set in one house; will all TV sets require separate STBs to receive DD Free Dish?

Ans. Yes, a separate STB will be required for each TV set.

Q. 19 If a subscriber shifts his residence in same city or moves to some other city, can he continue to use the same STB and the Dish to receive DD Free Dish?

Ans. Yes, the same STB and DD Free Dish can be installed anywhere in India and subscriber can continue to enjoy DD Free Dish at the new location.

Q. 20 Where can the Dish be installed?

Ans. Dish can be installed on the rooftop or on the wall surface facing clear south.

Q. 21 Can the Receive Dish be fixed on the window grill?
Ans. It may be possible to get the dish fixed on the window grill with slight modification on the grill or the fixtures but it is desirable to fix the dish on rigid wall (outside) or roof top.

Q. 22 Can the receive System be installed by the viewer himself?

Ans. A Detailed procedure for installation is given on the website. However, it is advisable to take the help of skilled technical person for the installation of the system.

Q. 23 Will the reception be affected by rains/snowfall?

Ans. The uplink system has provision to take care of fading of the signal during rains. But, heavy rains may result into temporary outage in the DTH signal.

Q.24 What should be done If name of channel in TV channel list is different than the Actual TV program shown?

Ans. In the STB the change in program (TV channel) is detected but the information about change of name of channel is not stored automatically. It can be changed by deleting the earlier channel information and reinstalling (scanning) the new channel information.

Technical Issues:

1. How to update the changes in TV channel tuning manually in old non iCAS STB?

Ans: For old non iCAS STB, procedure to update the changes in program name varies from make to make of STBs. Follow the procedure mentioned in the installation manual supplied along-with the STB. However, as broad guidelines the steps involved are as indicated in the example given hereunder:

In new iCAS STB, all changes will be done over the air automatically and no manual interaction is required.

EXAMPLE-1.

Following are the steps to be followed to scan or search the channels on DD Free Dish DTH bouquet.

Press ‘Menu’ Button on Remote of DD Free Dish Set-Top-Box

Go to ‘Installation’ or ‘Setup Programme’

Fill the details as below

‘Satellite’	GSAT- 15
‘T P Frequency’	11090 MHz
‘LNB Frequency’	09750 MHz

'Symbol rate'	2 9500 Ksps
'Polarization'	V
'22K'	OFF
'Search mode'	FTA
'Disc. Equal'.	Off

After filling the above values go to 'Search' Press 'OK'

The new TV and Radio services will be displayed.

For other frequencies and related parameters refer to table below.

Note:-The above-mentioned steps may be in different order in some of the STBs.
The different transponder frequency, LNB frequency, symbol rate etc. required to tune to the STBs for all the channels available in the DD Free Dish are summarized as below: -

S. N.	Transponder Frequency (MHz)	Polarization	Symbol Rate (Ksps)	FEC	LNB Frequency (MHz)	22K	Disc. Equal
1.	11090	V	29500	3/4	09750	OFF	OFF
2.	11170	V	29500	3/4	09750	OFF	OFF
3.	11470	V	29500	3/4	10600	OFF	OFF
4.	11510	V	29500	3/4	10600	OFF	OFF
5.	11550	V	29500	3/4	10600	OFF	OFF
6.	11630	V	30000	3/5	10600	OFF	OFF

2. How to delete TV channel programme in STB manually?

A. The procedure to delete TV Channel programme in the TV channel list varies from make to make of STBs. Follow the procedure mentioned in the installation manual supplied along-with the STB.

EXAMPLE 2.

Following are the steps to be followed to delete channels in TV channel list.

Go to 'Edit Programme'

Select- 'Delete Option'

Select the channel, using up down key.

Press 'OK'

Please Note: In old low cost Set Top Boxes having limited storage capacity may not store all the channels, so viewers having such boxes are advised to delete the pre-stored channels using "Delete Option" in "Edit Programme Menu" before going for AUTO SCAN Option for returning their Set Top Boxes. For Manual / Auto scan is required to select FREE / FTA channels only.